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SIU student reported missing

TARA KULASH
Daily Egyptian

An SIU law student has been missing since Tuesday, when his car was found parked on Chester Bridge with the hazard lights on.

The Chester Police Department received a call at 10:07 p.m. Tuesday about an abandoned car on the Mississippi River bridge and reported to the scene. The vehicle, a silver 2011 Kia, was registered to Phil Jobst, a first-year law student from North Carolina who was living in Murphysboro. Police joined the Chester Fire

Department for rescue attempts and immediately launched a rescue boat. Both departments have been searching the Mississippi River for Jobst, but have not found him yet, according to a press release from the Chester police.

Maggie Jobst, Phil Jobst’s sister, said there will be a memorial mass at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Carterville.

In the obituary she prepared for her sibling, she said her brother’s quick wit and creative sense of humor will be missed by all who knew him.

“Phillip Jobst was a brilliant, funny and caring young man. He enjoyed his studies at SIU law school, spending time with friends and family, engaging in lively debates and playing chess,” she said.

Chester Chief of Police Don McKinney said he will not confirm Jobst’s death until he finds his body.

“It’s an open investigation until we close it by recovery, or him admitting that he’s somewhere else,” McKinney said. “This could be an open investigation for years.”

The Student Bar Association sponsored a candlelight vigil for Jobst Wednesday night outside the Lesar Law Building with about 100 attendees, according to the Southern Illinoisan.

Wesley Clark, a law student from Jamestown, Tenn., said he and Jobst were best friends.

“Since I’ve gotten to know Phil, he had really become motivated to better himself,” Clark said.

Jobst was overweight but managed to lose 70 pounds since they met when they started law school, he said. The two spent Jobst’s last birthday, Jan. 9,

together and went to the mall in Cape Girardeau.

“He had finally lost enough weight that he didn’t have to shop in the plus section,” Clark said. “He was really excited about that.”

Another example of how driven Jobst could be was when he worked on his speech impediment, Clark said. Clark’s father is a speech therapist and had a one-hour session with Jobst to work on his impediment, he said.

Please see MISSING | 3



PAT SUTPHIN | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Yellow daffodils bloom Wednesday in Thompson Woods. According to the Weather Channel, temperatures on Wednesday reached 68 degrees Fahrenheit despite Thursday’s rainy weather, temperatures are expected to reach to 59 degrees for the weekend.

Spring break preparation could put students at risk



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LYNNETTE OOSTMEYER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Christy Hamilton, wellness coordinator at Student Health Services, said extreme tanning is a factor to the cancer statistic increase, especially in young people.

TIFFANY BLANCHETTE
Daily Egyptian

Tanning and dieting could be stereotyped as commonly practiced activities leading up to spring break.

Each activity is known to pose both long- and short-term health risks, especially if practiced in extremes.

“Any behavior that’s done in any sort of extreme is probably going to have detriments to some aspect of a student’s health,” said Christy Hamilton, wellness coordinator at Student Health Services.

The four main areas that seem to present the most problems in the time around spring break are tanning, dieting, binge-drinking and sexual activities, she said.

Hamilton said students who engage in risky activities should consider implementing risk-reduction behaviors as well as practicing moderation.

During the last two weeks before spring break, Paradise Island Tanning Salon sees increased customers and sales, said Megan

Kendrick, a salon employee.

Kendrick said the most common reason is so students can get a base tan and won’t have to deal with the pain of sunburn during their trip.

Skin cancer is unfortunately an increasing phenomenon across the country, especially with young people, Hamilton said. She said extreme tanning and tanning-bed availability are two contributing factors to the cancer statistic increase.

Extreme dieting and exercise are not usually for health reasons when pursued in a short time frame, she said. Often with these efforts, students are trying to obtain a beach-ready body and forfeit their healthy habits, she said.

“These efforts are rarely maintained upon return from break, especially considering the drinking habits many students practice,” Hamilton said.

She said with binge drinking, weight gain is prevalent because of the amount of alcohol students consume, which shocks their bodies and introduces an excess

Please see SPRING BREAK | 3

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The DAILY EGYPTIAN, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

About Us

The DAILY EGYPTIAN is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale 50 weeks per year, with an average daily circulation of 20,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Friday. Summer editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intersession editions will run on Wednesdays. Spring break and Thanksgiving editions are distributed on Mondays of the pertaining weeks. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale, Murphysboro and Carterville communities. The DAILY EGYPTIAN online publication can be found at www.dailyegyptian.com.

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Correction

In Thursday's edition of the DAILY EGYPTIAN, the graphic featured with the story titled "Graduate council votes for fee decrease" should have been titled "fee changes." The DAILY EGYPTIAN regrets this error.

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- All miles marked
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- Men and Women Runners: 14 and under; 15-19; 20-24; 25-29; 30-34; 35-39; 40-44; 45-49; 50-54; 55-59; 60-64; 65-69; 70 and over
- Men and Women Walkers: 19 and under; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69; 70 and over

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MISSING

CONTINUED FROM 1

“Not even two days later, Phil had taken what he learned and completely removed his speech impediment,” Clark said. “My dad said he had never seen anyone work that fast.”

He said Jobst took the tips he’d been given, such as singing along to songs on the radio for better pronunciation, and practiced them for just about every waking minute.

When Jobst returned to

school the next Monday, Clark said, his classmates were shocked to see how rapidly his speech had improved.

He said Jobst was very articulate and spoke like a true professional. He was a connoisseur of cigars, whiskey and good food, Clark said.

“I’ll miss him,” he said.

The Chester Police Department asks anyone with information about Jobst’s whereabouts to call 618-826-5454.

Tara Kulash can be reached at tkulash@

SPRING BREAK

CONTINUED FROM 1

calorie intake.

Aside from reversing pre-break efforts, students can put themselves at risk by appearing vulnerable to criminals in tourist areas, she said.

“It’s important for students to be aware that if they don’t practice moderation, they can increase their risk of being targets for theft and being taken advantage of,” Hamilton said.

Misha Bond, a junior from Crete studying

elementary education, said she has been tanning for the past three weeks, working out twice a day and picking up extra work shifts at work to prepare for a trip to Panama City Beach, Fla.

She said although there are extremes, the consequences can be minimal as long as students don’t abuse their bodies.

Bond said even though there are many risks in party areas such as Panama City Beach, it’s worth the memories and getaway.

“Our group plans to

stay safe by sticking together and traveling with a group of guys and girls,” she said. “It is going to be a drunk week, so we do have to keep our heads on straight.”

Hamilton said students should be mindful about wrapping up their semester once they return from break.

It’s important to remember that the choices made over break can impact the remainder of a student’s semester and education, she said.

The Student Health Center offers many

services such as counseling, seminars and professional medical advice, in the event that students return with dire circumstances, she said.

She said students should speak up and share their concerns with their friends.

“Overall, one of the greatest safety mechanisms besides practicing self-responsibility is to watch out for each other,” Hamilton said.

Tiffany Blanchette can be reached at tblanchette@dailyegyptian.com

Romney: Obama ‘in part’ to blame for gas prices

JULIE PACE

Associated Press

PASCAGOULA, Miss. — Seeking to tap into the public’s concern over rising gas costs, Mitt Romney on Thursday said

President Barack Obama was “in part” to blame for higher prices at the pump.

Romney, the front-runner in the Republican presidential field, said Obama has tried to shirk his responsibility for increases

in the price of gas, which could threaten to upend some recent improvements in the nation’s economy.

“He says, ‘It’s not my fault’” Romney said during a campaign stop on Mississippi’s Gulf Coast.

“This is in part his fault. This is a guy who has slowed down... the licensing and permitting of offshore rigs, of onshore drilling.”

Despite Romney’s assertions, economists say there’s not much a president of either party could do

about gasoline prices. The current increases at the pump have been driven by fears of a war with oil-rich Iran and by higher demand in the U.S. as well as in China, India and other quickly growing nations.

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BULLDOGS

CONTINUED FROM 8

"I'll give Harrisburg all the credit they deserve and then some," said Breese Central head coach Stan Eagleson. "They have some of the most talented underclassmen I've seen in a long time and, in light of what's been going on in Harrisburg, I think that says a whole lot about the team's character. The Bulldogs are going to be the team to beat next year."

Ultimately, Harrisburg may not have made it to state, but the true reward came from what they did for their community by just doing what they do: playing basketball.

Caleb Motsinger can be reached at cmotsinger@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 269

Minnesota rallies to beat Northwestern 75-68 in OT

MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Northwestern's slim NCAA tournament hopes took a big hit Thursday.

Minnesota rallied from a 61-57 deficit to force overtime, then scored the final six points to pull away from the Wildcats 75-68 in the first round of the Big Ten tournament. Next up for the 10th-seeded Gophers is No. 10 Michigan, which finished in a three-way tie for the league's regular-season title.

Andre Hollins scored a career-high 25 points and Austin

Hollins scored 12 for Minnesota (19-13), which put coach Tubby Smith within one victory of No. 100 at Minnesota.

But the far bigger story is what will happen to the Wildcats (18-13), who probably needed one or two wins in Indianapolis to sew up their first NCAA bid.

Now all they can do is hope that everything breaks right in the other conference tournaments and the selection committee believes Northwestern has done enough to deserve one of the precious at-large bids.

JerShon Cobb scored a career-high 24 points and John Shurna added 21, but the Northwestern

shooters went cold when it mattered most. After taking a 61-57 lead with 4:06 to go, the Wildcats made only one more basket in regulation and overtime combined.

And Minnesota was just good enough to take advantage.

The Gophers tied the score at 61 when Andre Hollins stole the ball, one of eight Northwestern turnovers, and drove in for a layup with 1:02 to play in regulation.

Both teams had chances to win it in the final 10 seconds, but Minnesota missed a mid-range jumper and Northwestern's Dave Sobolewski rushed a buzzer-beating shot that bounced off the

back of the rim to force overtime.

Northwestern closed to 69-68 when Reggie Hearn made two free throws with 1:22 left in overtime, but Minnesota sealed the victory with another layup from Andre Hollins, a dunk from Rodney Williams and two free throws from Chip Armelin.

The teams combined for 22 3-pointers, 11 for each and two short of the tourney single-game record.

Before halftime, 16 of the 25 baskets came from beyond the arc.

The Gophers played without center Ralph Sampson III, who had a back injury flare up this week.

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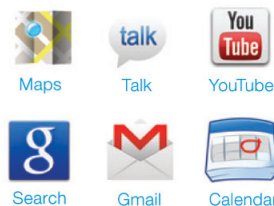
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SARAH SCHNEIDER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Freshman right-handed pitcher Sam Coonrod throws a pitch in Tuesday’s game against Middle Tennessee State at Abe Martin Field. The Salukis, who have won four of their last five games, start a three-game home series against Jacksonville State at 2 p.m. today.

BASEBALL

CONTINUED FROM 8

Jacksonville State had 31 hits against the Salukis last season, but the tables have turned as SIU is the hot-hitting team entering this season’s series. As a team, the Salukis hit .293 with 84 runs batted in, while Jacksonville State manages a measly .227 average and 29 runs batted in.

“They’re an (Ohio Valley Conference) team. There are a lot of bats (in that league). That’s how they beat us last year. They just out-hit the crap out of us,” said sophomore outfielder Nick Johnson.

Henderson said they expect to start their normal weekend rotation, with junior left-handed pitcher Cody Forsythe receiving the call Friday.

“They’re an (Ohio Valley Conference) team. There are a lot of bats (in that league). That’s how they beat us last year. They just out-hit the crap out of us.

— Nick Johnson
sophomore outfielder

He started the Saturday game against Jacksonville State last season and picked up the loss, pitching six and a third innings, giving up four earned runs on eight hits.

Senior right-handed pitcher Cameron Maldonado will take the bump Saturday. He also started one of the games against Jacksonville State last season, picking up the loss after six innings and giving up three earned runs on nine hits. He has a 7.71 earned run average in three starts this season.

Junior left-handed pitcher

Nathan Dorris will pitch against the Gamecocks in the third game of the series. He’s won all three starts this season, posting a 3.44 earned run average with 16 strikeouts.

Jacksonville State is expected to start senior right-handed pitcher Aaron Elias, sophomore right-handed pitcher Bradley Raulston and senior left-handed pitcher Daniel Watts.

Joe Ragusa can be reached at jragusa@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 269

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 902b W Mill - rented
 904a W Mill - rented
 906a W Mill - rented
 908a W Mill - rented
 703 Oakland
 704 James - rented
 706 James - rented
 708 James - rented
 710 James - rented
 712 James - rented
 714 James
 716 James
 1000 W Mill - rented
 1002 W Mill
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 802, 406, 321, 319 W Walnut
 501 S. Hays, 305 W. College
 103 S. Forest

3 bdrm-310, 313, 610 W Cherry
 405 S Ash, 106, 408 S Forest,
 306 W College, 321 W Walnut

2 bdrm-305 W College,
 406, 324, 319 W Walnut

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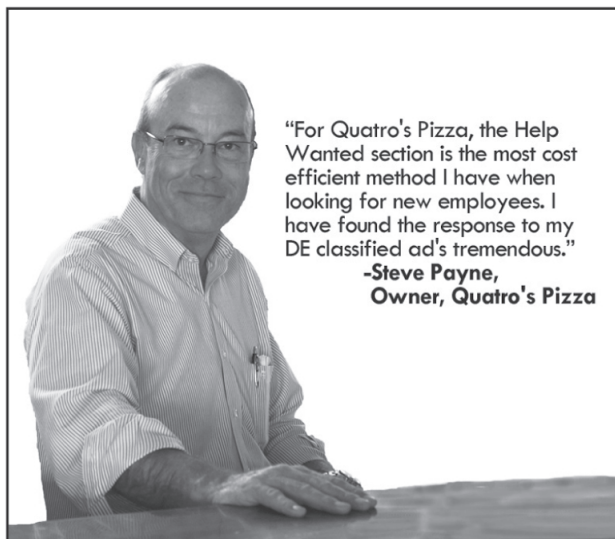
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806 1/2 N. Bridge St.
(Triplex) #3, #4, #5

805 W. Main St. #1, #6

1 BEDROOM

905 W. Sycamore #1, #2

210 Springer #1, #2,
(W/D on Site)

1 BEDROOM (w/office)

805 W. Main St.
#2, #3, #4, #5

423 W. Monroe #2,3,4,
5 & #6 (W/D on site)

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2 BEDROOM

804 N. Bridge St.
505 N. Davis*

311 S. Oakland
401 S. Oakland*
(w/ garage)

1307 Old W. Main
806 W. Schwartz

2 BEDROOM

909A W. Sycamore } Behind 911W. Sycamore

2 or 3 BEDROOM

309*, 400*, 402*, 404*,
405*, 407* & 409*
S. James

3 BEDROOM

607 W. Cherry*
503 N. Oakland*
109 S. Dixon*
401 S. Forest*
424 W. Sycamore*
513 N. Davis*

4 BEDROOM

410 S. Forest (1 1/2 bath)*
308 S. James*

906 W. Cherry (2 bath w/ garage)*
910 W. Mill (2 bath)*
403 S. Oakland (2 bath)*
1701 W. Sycamore*
421 W. Monroe
(multi-zoned, 1 1/2 baths)*

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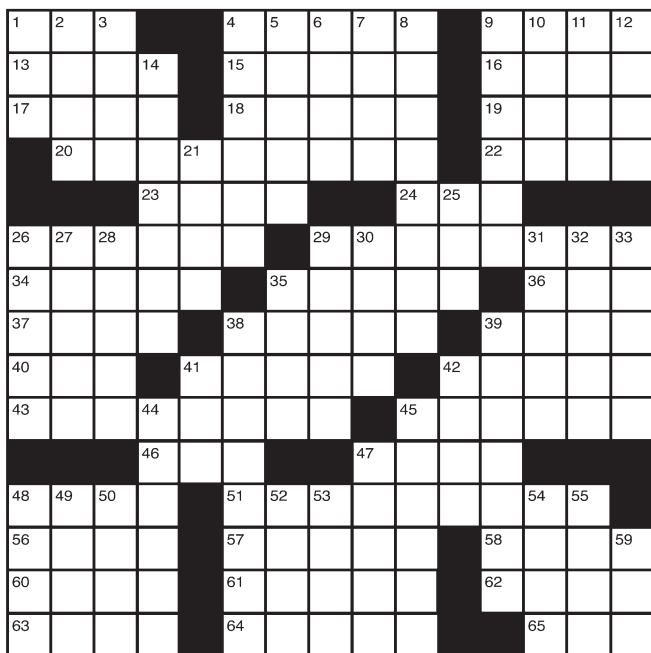
THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Prohibit
- 4 Mr. Picasso
- 9 In the sack
- 13 Provo's state
- 15 Local expression
- 16 Close-at-hand
- 17 Roof type for some arenas
- 18 ___-frutti
- 19 Facts & figures
- 20 Indigent
- 22 Orangish-brown color
- 23 Robert Frost or Joyce Kilmer
- 24 Take to court
- 26 Become visible
- 29 Closely mowed golf course areas
- 34 Be a freeloader
- 35 Poultry shop purchase
- 36 British restroom
- 37 Dairy product
- 38 ___ aback; surprised
- 39 Venetian resort
- 40 "___ and you shall receive..."
- 41 Trait
- 42 Headed bolt
- 43 Tidiness
- 45 Actress Tyson
- 46 Gallop
- 47 ___ with; support
- 48 Competent
- 51 Car crashes
- 56 Messy person
- 57 Roll in a first aid kit
- 58 Thailand, once
- 60 Bridge
- 61 Crosser's fee
- 62 Beige shade
- 63 Sexy glance
- 64 Deciphers
- 65 Baby goat

DOWN

- 1 Immature flower



Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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3/9/12

Aries — Today is a 6 — Slow down, and think about your words before blurting them out (if possible). Exercise and hot water relieves tension. A friend and a cup of tea help to ponder your next act.

Taurus — Today is a 7 — Don't take a romantic risk just yet. Check out a wild theory. Double-check data and research. Your quick wit is appreciated. Enjoy simple pleasures.

Gemini — Today is a 7 — Jealousies or stress (especially financial) could spark arguments. Keep the place clean to avoid conflict. Practice leads to a useful skill. Start with the hard part.

Cancer — Today is a 7 — Don't bet on a far-fetched scheme ... at least, not today. Hold off on long-distance travel, if you can. Constant communication is beneficial. Take on more work, and juggle.

Leo — Today is a 7 — Stash your cash for the time being. There's been a change in orders. No gambling allowed (except in love). Then, all bets are on. Patient practicality still wins out, however.

Virgo — Today is a 7 — Consider all points of view. Help antagonists to understand each other. Stick to core values. Inspire another to be creative, and get secondhand satisfaction.

Libra — Today is a 7 — Watch out for changes to the dossier. There could be a crossed wire or bad translation. Verify everything, and scour the schedule. Don't be too hasty.

Scorpio — Today is a 7 — Clean up old closets and old misunderstandings. Keeping the channels of communication open helps tremendously. Avoid skipping necessary steps.

Sagittarius — Today is a 7 — Clean up a mess with a friend. Avoid getting into a losing argument. Think twice before making a purchase. Will it really make you happier? Buy it if you love it.

Capricorn — Today is a 7 — Keep an eye on your watch to avoid missed appointments. Take care of important tasks first. Then take a well-deserved rest, and catch up.

Aquarius — Today is a 6 — It's easier to get in an argument, but is it worth it? You understand your situation best, but others have valuable insights. Don't fall for a con game.

Pisces — Today is a 6 — Today you work better in a quiet space. There's plenty of room for personal growth and transformation. Don't go out if you don't really want to.

SUDOKU

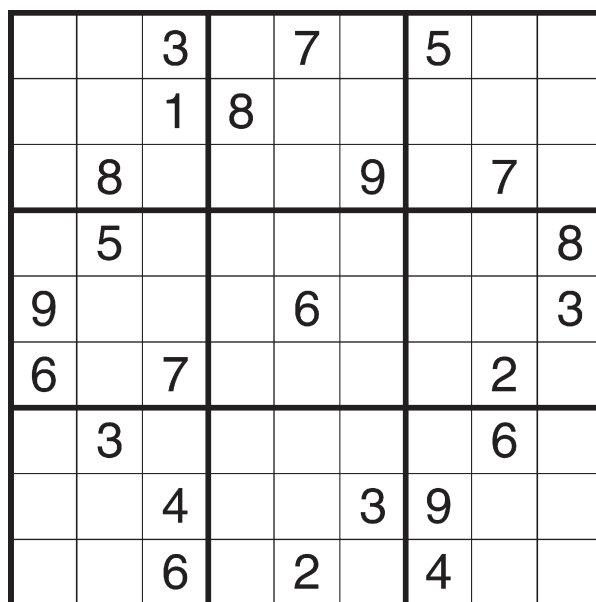
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Level: 1 2 3 4

Thursday's Answers:

2	8	3	7	9	4	5	1	6
4	9	6	5	1	2	8	7	3
1	5	7	6	3	8	9	2	4
5	6	8	4	7	1	3	9	2
7	3	4	9	2	5	6	8	1
9	2	1	3	8	6	7	4	5
3	7	2	1	5	9	4	6	8
8	4	5	2	6	7	1	3	9
6	1	9	8	4	3	2	5	7

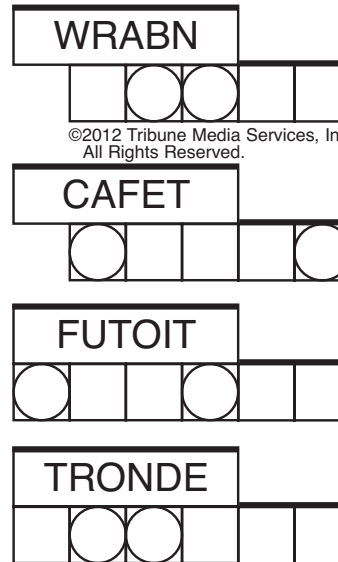
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contain every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MIXED UP BY:

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer:



Wednesday's
Answers

KNIFE DEPTH NEURON TRAUMA
When the unprepared hunter ran into the giant buck, he said this — OH "DEER"

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By Nancy Black and Stephanie Clement

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Top SIU athletes compete for National Championships

AKEEM GLASPIE
Daily Egyptian

Three Saluki track and field athletes will compete for a chance to take home a National Championship win for SIU.

Senior throwers J.C. Lambert and Jeneva McCall, along with senior multi-event athlete Malaikah Love, will compete in the NCAA Indoor Championships Friday through Sunday in Nampa, Idaho at the Jackson Indoor Track.

“I really want to bring this back home for my community,” said Lambert, a Harrisburg native. “Having my hometown behind me, cheering for me, really motivates me to do something for my community.”

On Feb. 29, Lambert’s hometown was hit by a tornado that ravaged homes and businesses in the area and left seven people dead. Lambert said he wants to be able to give his hometown someone to cheer for during these difficult times.

Lambert, who will compete Saturday in the weight throw, had his longest recorded toss this season at the Saluki Open. His distance of 74-4.25 ranks him fourth in the nation. Lambert will compete against throwers from powerhouse schools such as Princeton, Virginia Tech, LSU, Minnesota, Florida and Ohio State. The Harrisburg native said he looks to improve on his fourth-place finish at the 2011 Championships.

Lambert is also entering his third Indoor Nationals and, despite ranking fourth in the nation in the weight throw with a 74-4.25 mark, said he feels like somewhat of an underdog who is carrying the weight of his hometown and the country into the meet. His main competitors in the weight throw come from Slovakia and Germany, and Lambert said he’s received support from other athletes who

hope he represents the USA well.

“Since I am homegrown and have a chance to beat foreign athletes that have been throwing four times as long as I have, I have different American coaches and athletes coming up to me, saying they hope I beat them and win it for the USA,” he said.

McCall heads into the Championships Friday as the favorite to win the women’s weight throw. McCall holds the longest weight throw in the country, with a toss of 77-11.5 that she recorded Jan. 13 at the Saluki Open. McCall will also compete in the shot-put event.

This will be McCall’s third trip to the Indoor Nationals, but despite being the favorite, she said she feels no extra pressure to perform well.

“No, I don’t feel any pressure from people,” McCall said. “Being the favorite or not, you just got to get in there and do what you know you can do. There’s no sense (in) worrying about the next person.”

Love is the third member of the team who will compete in her third Nationals. Love will be very busy Saturday as she competes in the pentathlon, a set of five events consisting of 60-meter hurdles, high jump, shot put, 800-meter dash and long jump.

Love said the pentathlon is a very grueling event, but if she can improve on her MVC record of 4,092 total points, she expects to be competitive. She said it is important not to overthink the events during the meet.

“My mindset is pretty calm at this level of competition,” Love said. “I’ve already made it to the meet; now comes the fun part. The simpler you keep competition strategies at these meets, the easier it is to compete.”

Akeem Glaspie can be reached at aglaspie@dailyegyptian.com or 536-331 ext. 269



SARAH GARDNER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Members of the Harrisburg High School basketball team celebrate March 3 after their victory over Pinckneyville during the sectional championship at the Duff-Kingston Gymnasium in Eldorado. The Bulldogs defeated Pinckneyville 54-47 and advanced to supersectionals Tuesday at the SIU Arena, where they fell to Breese Central 30-37.

STAFF COLUMN

Harrisburg Bulldogs calm the storm

CALEB MOTSINGER
Daily Egyptian

High school basketball in southern Illinois is serious business, and business is good for the Harrisburg Bulldogs.

“They embody the spirit of Harrisburg,” said Harrisburg Mayor Eric Gregg. “They’re tough, hard-nosed kids that have truly inspired their town during a hard time.”

A successful high school basketball season can unite a community and have a lasting effect, similar to that of the Feb. 29 tornado that displaced hundreds from their homes.

But when the winds of adversity attempted to blow down the Bulldogs, the team stood and delivered as they knocked off Pinckneyville in the sectional finals at Eldorado to make it to the supersectionals for the first time since 2001.

Despite the team’s 30-37 loss Tuesday in supersectionals to top-ranked Breese Central, the Bulldogs look to return all of their leading scorers in the 2012-13 season with hopes that experience and hard work will help pave a new path to Peoria.

As relief efforts flow into Harrisburg from across the country, and this

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— Randy Smithpeters
Bulldogs head coach

basketball season’s end gives way to a new one, the future of the town and its basketball team looks bright.

“Really and truly, I don’t think the team’s performance has had a lot of lows this season,” Bulldogs head coach Randy Smithpeters said. “We have only lost five regular-season games, and those games were to top notch competition that we knew a loss might be a strong possibility. We’re a young team, and this season has been very important in preparing our guys for next year.”

Breese Central ended the Bulldogs’ season at 28-6 and, as much as the town would have loved to see their Bulldogs make it to state, the recent trend of parochial schools taking the state championships makes

the path beyond the supersectionals somewhat bittersweet.

During the 1994-95 season, Smithpeters’ second season with the Bulldogs, his team beat West Frankfort and Breese Mater Dei to reach the Elite Eight for the first time since 1938.

Smithpeters has had some good teams since he came to Harrisburg in 1993. He’s made it to the supersectional five times in the last 19 years, coached all five of his sons, and with the team’s leading scorer, Tyler Smithpeters, fit to return next year for his senior season, the Bulldogs will be one of the area’s most highly regarded teams.

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Salukis take on Jacksonville State in three-game series

JOE RAGUSA
Daily Egyptian

The Salukis will look to avenge a three-game sweep last season at the hands of Jacksonville State when the Gamecocks come to Abe Martin Field this weekend.

“They’re not playing extremely well,” said coach Ken Henderson. “I’ve seen that they’ve been beat some, but they play good people and it’ll be a challenge.”

“We were just playing bad baseball. We were pretty young last year, and our pitching, our hitting and our defense were all question marks.

— Jake Welch
sophomore shortstop

SIU (8-5) starts its three-game series Friday against Jacksonville State (2-8). When the Salukis played the Gamecocks in a three-game series during the 2011 season, SIU scored only three runs

on their way to getting swept.

“They were a better team than us,” Henderson said. “They have some guys who can really swing the bat. They were probably one of the four or five best teams we

played last year.”

Jacksonville State senior third baseman Sam Eberle drilled Saluki pitching last season as he drove in seven runs on four hits. He’s batting .282 this season with three runs

batted in, all off solo home runs.

Last season, SIU entered its three-game series in Jacksonville with a 4-7.

“We were just playing bad baseball,” said sophomore shortstop Jake Welch, who went 2-for-12 in last season’s series. “We were pretty young last year, and our pitching, our hitting and our defense were all question marks.”

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